

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application :

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A supporting rack, comprising:
a planar surface comprising a first and a second section, whereby each section is defined by a plurality of cross rods and a plurality of mutually engaged rods that are disposed perpendicularly to the cross rods;

connection means adapted to allow connection of said planar surface sections to form a unitary planar supporting surface for supporting food or food containers;

wherein said unitary planar supporting surface is structured to facilitate removable insertion into a cooking apparatus device, and maintained therein;

wherein said connection means ~~comprises is provided by a~~ the plurality of mutually engaged rods, ~~forming said rack and being so structured as to enable ready separation of said rack, said plurality of mutually engaged rods connecting at least two smaller, planar sections, said first and second smaller planar sections include being connected at at least one a joint wherein the said at least one joint being formed by insertion of an end portion of one of said plurality of mutually engaged rods of one of said smaller, planar first sections into smaller in diameter than an end portion of one of said plurality of mutually engaged rods of another one of said smaller planar second sections, said ends of smaller diameter being arranged to slide into said ends of another one of said smaller, planar sections, said rack including a channel passes passing through each of said end portions ends of said mutually engaged rods of said first and second each of said smaller, planar sections and the channels assume said channel being shaped to define an in-line position when said sections are joined together in operable engagement, and the end portions are is secured with at least one securing pin passing through the channels; and~~

wherein said first and second surface sections are capable of being folded about said connection means or detached from each other to reduce the overall space occupied

by the rack and to facilitate handling and storage of the rack.

2. (Previously presented) A supporting rack according to claim 1, wherein said first and second surface sections are substantially similar in size.

3. (Previously presented) A supporting rack according to claim 1, wherein said first and second surface sections are of different sizes.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Amended) A supporting rack according to claim 1, wherein said cooking apparatus device is a domestic or commercial cooking oven.

6. (Amended) A supporting rack according to claim 1, wherein said cooking apparatus device is an outdoor grilling device.

7. (Original) A supporting rack according to claim 1, comprising an outer frame adapted to interface with supporting slots provided along inner walls of an oven cavity.

8. (Original) A supporting rack according to claim 1, comprising an outer frame adapted to interface with supporting slots provided along inner walls of a grilling device.

9. (Currently amended) A supporting rack, comprising:
a planar surface comprising a first and a second section, whereby each section is defined by a plurality of cross rods and a plurality of mutually engaged rods that are disposed perpendicularly to the cross rods;

connection means adapted to allow connection of said planar surface sections to form a unitary planar supporting surface for supporting food or food containers;

wherein said unitary planar supporting surface is structured to support said food or food containers above another planar surface;

wherein said connection means ~~comprises~~ ~~is provided by a~~ the plurality of mutually engaged rods, ~~forming said rack and being so structured as to enable ready separation of said rack, said plurality of mutually engaged rods connecting at least two smaller, planar sections, said first and second smaller planar sections include being connected at at least one a joint wherein the said at least one joint being formed by insertion of an end portion of one of said plurality of mutually engaged rods of one of said smaller, planar first sections into smaller in diameter than an end portion of one of said plurality of mutually engaged rods of another one of said smaller planar second sections, said ends of smaller diameter being arranged to slide into said ends of another one of said smaller, planar sections, said rack including a channel passes passing through each of said end portions ends of said mutually engaged rods of said first and second each of said smaller, planar sections and the channels assume said channel being shaped to define an in-line position when said sections are joined together in operable engagement, and the end portions are~~ is secured with at least one securing pin passing through the channels; and

wherein said first and second surface sections are capable of being folded about said connection means or detached from each other to reduce the overall space occupied by the rack and to facilitate handling and storage of the rack.

10. (Original) A supporting rack according to claim 1, comprising an overall quadrilateral or rectangular shape.

11. (Original) A supporting rack according to claim 10, comprising rounded corners.

12. (Original) A supporting rack according to claim 1, comprising an overall

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circular or elliptical shape.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) A supporting rack according to claim 1, comprising a solid supporting surface.

15. (Original) A supporting rack according to claim 14, wherein said solid supporting surface includes an array of apertures to allow heat or air passage.

16. (Original) A supporting rack according to claim 1, wherein said supporting rack is formed of stainless steel.

17. (Original) A supporting rack according to claim 1, wherein said supporting rack is formed of aluminum.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) A supporting rack according to claim 1, wherein said connection means comprises at least one hinge; said hinge allowing a user to fold said sections of said planar supporting surface.

21. (Previously presented) A supporting rack according to claim 9, wherein said first and second surface sections are substantially similar in size.

22. (Previously presented) A supporting rack according to claim 9, wherein said

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first and second surface sections are of different sizes.

23. (Previously presented) A supporting rack according to claim 9, wherein said connection means comprises at least one hinge; said hinge allowing a user to fold said sections of said planar supporting surface.